

~~SECRET~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Belgium

DATE:

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Organization of The Friends of  
Republican Spain (AER) in Brussels

DIST. 18 February 1947

PAGES 2

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT 25X1A6a

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EVALUATION OF CONTENT

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1. The association called The Friends of Republican Spain (AER), which is also known as The Friends of Anti-Franquist Spain and as The Belgian Friends of Republican Spain, was organized in Brussels in September 1944 under the leadership of Pierre Seigneur. Its objectives reportedly are the spreading of information concerning the activities of the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile\* and the dissemination of propaganda stressing the similarity of the Franco regime to that of Hitler.
2. At the time of its inception, the association published a manifesto advocating the establishment of a republican regime in Spain, and charging that Franco had enslaved the Spanish people, had supported the Germans in sending troops to Russia, and had allowed Spain to serve as a refuge for followers of Hitler and war criminals.
3. Source states that although the association considers itself non-political and claims that its members represent all political tendencies, it is composed predominantly of socialist, anarchist and communist elements of Belgian and other nationalities. Most of its Belgian members are Communists; it is their aim to gain control of the association. Many of its members fought as volunteers on the republican side during the Spanish Civil War. Groups affiliated with the AER include: The FGTB (Federation Generale des Travailleurs de Belgique - General Federation of Workers of Belgium, a Socialist-Communist trade-union organization), the Anciens Combattants de l'Espanne Republicaine (Former Fighters of Republican Spain, an association of Spanish Civil War veterans with obvious Communist tendencies), the JFB (Jeunesse Populaire de Belgique - Popular Youth of Belgium, a Communist youth organization), Les Amities Belgo-Sovietiques (Belgo-Soviet friendship organization), Le Front d'Independance (Independence Front, a movement of Communist tendencies).
4. The chief activity of the association is the organization of mass demonstrations on historical anniversaries. The association collects funds for the support of Spanish republicans and in the past has turned them over to the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile.

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Comment: This report was written prior to the resignation of Jose Giral as Prime Minister of the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile. Rodolfo Llopis, Socialist, has been named Prime Minister following the failure of Augusto Barcia to form a new government.

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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

ADSO	x A DEP.	FBT	SPDF	VTO	LIS	ST	BE	OIR	x
DADSO	FBK	FBV	SPDS	B DEP.					
EXEC.	FBL	FRX	SPDT	CFCB					
CONTROL	FDM	FDZ							
PLANS	x FBP	SPDA	x TRB						

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5. The AER has no press organ, but depends on the leftist press, and particularly that of the extreme left, to publicize its views. The organization issues a bulletin intended for its members.
6. Reportedly, the headquarters of the organization is at 35 Boulevard Leopold II, Brussels, at the home of a woman by the name of Kawan. The national committee is composed of the following:

President: Pierre Saigneur  
Treasurer: Alfred Gauchie  
Secretary: Mme. Kawan  
Members: Henri Levachery, curator of the Royal Museums  
Gustave Fischer, of the Radiodiffusion National-Belge  
Mme. Isabelle Blume, Socialist member of the Chamber of  
Representatives  
Pollet, a lawyer  
Antoine Collens  
Serge Baguette  
Guy Mertens  
Dr. Albert Marteaux, Communist Minister of Public Health  
Mme. Brachet  
Paul Finet, national secretary of the FGIB  
Mardulyn, president of the Association Generale des Etudiants  
de l'U.L.B. (General Association of Students of the Free  
University of Brussels).

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